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Bradley Deane and Jennifer Kolpacoff Deane receive National Endowment for the Humanities 2011 Summer Stipend awards

Summary: Morris is one of only two universities in the nation this year to produce more than one recipient of this prestigious award.

(May 10, 2011)-Bradley Deane, associate professor of English, and Jennifer Kolpacoff Deane, associate professor of history, are both recipients of 2011 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Stipends awards. Summer Stipends support individuals pursuing advanced research that is of value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both, providing an award of \$6,000 for two consecutive months of full-time research and writing.

Awards are made directly to individual scholars who have been nominated by their institutions. In this highly competitive program, only Morris and Emory University can claim more than one recipient this year, “which is very rare,” notes Bradley Deane, and “says a lot about the quality of research that happens on our campus.”

Bradley Deane’s project, *Better Men: Masculinity and Imperialism in British Popular Literature, 1871-1914*, takes as its foundation the second couplet in the opening lines of Rudyard Kipling’s famous poem, “The Ballad of East and West,” that reads “But there is neither East nor West, Border, nor Breed, nor Birth, When two strong men stand face to face, though they come from the ends of the earth!” He will investigate this idea of global masculinity through literary sources that reveal shifting notions of manhood that redefined British imperialism in the last decades of the reign of Queen Victoria.

In this period of fundamental ideological shifts, a new imperialist masculinity transformed the Other from barbarians in need of civilizing to competitors and counterparts capable of helping British men learn more about themselves, pushing them to develop traits that would make them “fierce enough to withstand the pressures of late nineteenth-century geopolitics,” says Deane. Through an analysis of popular literature aimed at men and boys, Deane argues “that the same stereotypes that had been used to denigrate the colonial Other were adapted by later Victorian and Edwardian men to crystallize new masculine ideals and give form to emerging cultural desires that were unrepresentable in the images of manhood they had inherited from their fathers.”

Summer Stipend funds will support completion of a chapter of Deane’s book, *Better Men*, in which he examines “the growing frequency of historical and literary instances of cultural cross-dressing, whereby British men assumed the costumes of Zulus, Pathans, or Arabs, in ways that were imagined both to enhance imperial power and express otherwise hidden dimensions of masculine identity.” Having already conducted archival research for this chapter in London, England, he will access other literary and critical sources at the Wilson Library on the Twin Cities campus.

The holder of a doctorate from Northwestern University, Bradley Deane teaches British literature of the long 19th century (1789-1914) with an emphasis on Victorian literature and culture. His current research focuses on popular representations of late-Victorian imperialism.

Medieval historian Jennifer Deane's project, *Sisters Among: Lay Religious Women's Communities in Medieval Germany*, "investigates the intriguing but surprisingly unmapped terrain of 'beguine' or lay religious women's communities in German-speaking lands during the pivotal historical period between the 13th and 16th centuries." Deane will analyze and document these "uncloistered and yet specifically devoted feminine communities," aiming to divest them of the scholarly and clerical bias that has long colored their history.

The beguine communities, Deane contends, were much more widespread, complex, and durable than much contemporary scholarship on medieval history suggests. She will reframe thinking about them away from outdated binary constructions such as religious/lay, monastic/domestic, orthodox/heretical, and masculine categories of monastic life that marginalize them toward comparative approaches across time, space, and language. Using interdisciplinary techniques, particularly from gender studies and sociology, she will redefine the terms used to make assumptions about the beguines and place them in a firmer historical and social context.

During summer 2011, Deane will complete archival research for a case study on beguines in the German city of Trier and the nearby cities of Mainz and Darmstadt. Returning to the United States in September, she will devote the remaining four weeks to drafting this chapter of her book on beguine communities. Her work will make a large body of scholarship on these women available in English for the first time.

"I'm honored to be a recipient of an NEH Summer Stipend," says Deane, "and am looking forward to diving into my upcoming archival research in Germany. I'm also particularly grateful to UMM and the University of Minnesota for their institutional grant support over the years." Programs such as the Faculty Research Enhancement Fund, Grant-in-Aid, and Imagine Fund awards, all of which have been partially funded by the Office of the Vice President for Research, continues Deane, "have been vital stepping stones in my ongoing research, as has also been encouragement from so many colleagues across the divisions."

Jennifer Deane earned a doctorate from Northwestern University. She focuses her research on medieval religious movements and communities, the emergence and application of the construct of heresy, inquisitorial procedures, and gender. Her recent course offerings include *Gender, Women, and Sexuality in the Middle Ages*, *Renaissance and Reformation*, and *The Trial of Galileo*.

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation.

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